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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 040679-1191

In re patent application of

Naoki KACHI et al.

Serial No. 09/742,428

Group Art Unit: 1764

Filed: December 22, 2000

Examiner: H. T. Tran

For: Catalytic Converter with Multilayered Catalyst System

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 1, 2004, Applicants hereby elect the claims of **Group IV, claims 25-32**, for prosecution in the subject application.

This election is made with traverse. The subject matter of the respective groups of claims is very closely related, as demonstrated by the fact that all claims are classified in the same class and subclass. Thus, no burden is placed on the PTO in terms of the search field. Furthermore, Applicants dispute the characterization of the relationship set forth in the Office Action regarding Groups I-IV, i.e., as being in combination-subcombination relationship. All of the claims recite the same number of elements. At least Groups I, II and IV appear to be directed to the same basic invention, set forth in slightly differing scope. Restriction is not appropriate under these conditions, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Applicants, of course, reserve the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of any non-elected claims that may not be rejoined.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 21, 2004
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By  _____

Richard L. Schwaab
Registration No. 25,479